

International BattleAxe



Volume 2
Issue 2



Editorial

Marcus & Donald MacLean

We think the quality of your contributions to The Battleaxe is better than ever this year. Our thanks to all of you for your stories and photographs — so many of you are sending high resolution photos now, which is marvellous.

We welcome Ian MacLean of Nova Scotia and Peter MacLean from Western Australia as the new President and Vice President of the Clan Maclean International Association, and wish them all success for their terms of office.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Scottish Clans bestowed their highest honour, 'Scot of the Year', on James K. MacLean. Congratulations sent by our Chief, Sir Lachlan, to Atlantic Canada's beloved 'Jim Senior' include the words, "It is an honour well-deserved, and we are certainly blessed to have you as one of our own". Read more about Jim on page 24.

We wish all of you who are travelling to Scotland this year for the 'Homecoming Scotland 2009', a safe and enjoyable trip, with a reminder to visit Mull for the Isle of Mull Games, and to drop in on Duart Castle if you are able.

Next year we hope to be able to give you some advance information about the events planned for the 2012 Centenary Gathering of the Clan on Mull.

Our very best wishes to you all.



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INTERNATIONAL BATTLEAXE EDITORS



The chief with a film crew on the Duart battlements.
See the Duart Castle Award story on page 3.



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Other Events in Scotland in 2009

18 July	Inverness	Inverness Games < www.invernesshighlandgames.com >
18 July	Lochaline	Morvern Games < www.morverngalaweek.co.uk >
23 July	Tobermory	Isle of Mull Games (The Maclean Games)
25-26 July	Edinburgh	2009 Homecoming Gathering. < www.homecomingscotland2009.com >
15 Aug	Glasgow	World Pipe Band Championships. < www.rspba.org >
9-17 Oct	Oban	Royal National MOD < www.acgmod.org >
7 Nov	Glasgow	Clan Maclean Scottish Gathering. < www.maclean.org >



From Duart

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern, Bt., CVO, DL. Twenty-eighth chief of Clan Gillean

Dear Members of the Clan, Looking back to 2008, it seems remarkable that during the course of twelve months the world's banking system almost collapsed and confidence in the financial structure of the developed world lost its credibility. It is very often in times of uncertainty that individuals start searching to find out about their family. 2008 was no exception, with Macleans (of all spellings) contacting us to see if we can help with tracing their ancestors. In most cases we can pass them onto Associations around the world, who can often help them.

My family are all in good heart and my four grand-children who were born in 2007 are now all on the move. The four of them will have a great time as they all grow up together. The volume of noise seemed to grow as the year went on, and on one occasion when three of them were sitting in their high chairs at the end of the kitchen table at Duart, no one else could get a word in. How Mary would have loved to see them all growing up. Malcolm and Anna are now living outside Petersfield with their three boys, and his business seems to be going well. Emma and Giovanni plus their four children are living near Chippenham in Wiltshire. Alexandra and Colin with Betsy live outside Aberdeen, and Andrew is in Edinburgh. Like any father I am very proud of what they are achieving with their families.

Tourism in Scotland, and particularly on the West coast of Scotland had a real downturn in numbers in 2008. Ferries brought about 10% less visitors to Mull in 2008 compared to 2007. Our numbers of visitors were down by about 6% which is a worry. Everyone is rather uncertain about the 2009 tourist season. We think there will be more visitors from Europe with the Euro being so strong against the pound. Our bookings at Duart from the United States are significantly down, and the feeling is that there will be fewer

visitors from both Canada and the United States. This summer we have organised a number of new events for both adults and children at the Castle, which we hope will attract more visitors. In 2008 Duart was awarded the Caledonian MacBrayne Award for Excellence in Tourism. This award sponsored by Caledonian MacBrayne is part of the Annual Awards given by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (Highlands and Islands). It was a real credit to everyone who works at Duart and endorses our belief that a visit to Duart is a special experience.

Many of you will know that Duncan Maclean the President of CMIA has had to give up the Presidency due to ill health. Duncan has been a loyal and enthusiastic Maclean. He and his wife Elizabeth, who are entertainers, gave major support to the Ceilidh at the Gathering in 2002. I thank you Duncan for all you have done for the Clan, and wish you all success in your battle against cancer. Ian Maclean has taken over as President of CMIA, and I know he will take on this new role with the all the enthusiasm that he has given to Clan Maclean Atlantic Canada Association; I wish him well.

As everyone knows 2009 is the year of the homecoming. I think you all know my views on this event. However, if you do visit the Games at Holyrood Park on the 25th July, there will be a Clan Tent and I hope you will visit it. There will again be a Clan Tent at the Tobermory Games on the 23rd of July 2009. I will be at Duart for most of the summer, so please ask for me when you are visiting the Castle, as it is always a pleasure to meet members of the Clan

My very best wishes to you all.

The Heritage Trust

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern, Bt., CVO, DL. Twenty-eighth chief of Clan Gillean

As Chairman of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust, it gives me great pleasure to provide a short report on the progress that we have made over the last year. However, it is very important we all remember why the Clan Maclean Heritage was established in the early 1990's. It is our Clans own Charity and its purpose is to further interest in, and knowledge of the history of the Clan Maclean. It does this by enabling people to know more about the Clan, its story, culture and genealogy by maintaining an archive and library as well as preserving relics and buildings of the past for the future generations.

After all the celebrations of the unveiling of the Cairn at Kilninian to Brigadier General Allan Maclean and the excellent tea that was provided by Richard Maclean of Torloisk, the Heritage Trust has had a quieter year in 2008/2009.

In the last year our income grew from the membership fees paid by an increase in *Friends of the Heritage Trust*. As well several of the Associations made very generous donations to the Trust in memory of my wife Mary. The Trustees decided that these funds should be spent on particular projects linked to young people. Fiona Maclean of Ardgour, a Trustee is overseeing this project. A decision has already been taken to provide funding for the Mull and Iona Mod, where a competition has been named after Mary. Fiona Maclean has also produced a book of Maclean Tales for Children. The draft of this new book has been written which is very exciting.

In addition the Heritage Trust made its first payment towards the publishing of our new book *The Music of the Clan Maclean*. Colonel Donald, a trustee, has put an enormous amount of work

Duart Castle Wins Award for Excellence in Tourism

Scottish Council for Development & Industry Highlands & Islands Annual Dinner & Business Excellence Awards 2008

The historic landmark Duart Castle, on the Isle of Mull, was awarded the Caledonian MacBrayne Award for Excellence in Tourism on Friday 19th September at this year's Scottish Council for Development & Industry (SCDI) Highlands & Islands Annual Dinner & Business Excellence Awards.

The evening event, hosted by journalist and broadcaster, Isla Traquair, took place at the Highland Conference Centre & Newton Hotel in Nairn. Special guest, James Smith, Chairman of Shell UK, gave a short address before presenting Sir Lachlan Maclean, Chief of the Clan Maclean, with the award.

CalMac, sponsors of Excellence in Tourism, chose the visitor attraction for the award, recognising its immense popularity and excellent reputation amongst visitors to the west coast of Scotland. As well as being open to the public, Duart Castle operates as a clan and family home.

Ian Fox, CalMac's Regional Manager for Argyll, said: "CalMac is delighted to award its Excellence in Tourism award (part of the SCDI's Highlands and Islands Annual Dinner & Business Excellence Awards 2008) to Duart Castle on Mull. The MacLean family and Duart Castle provide a highly professional tourism product that covers a wide range of interests, and appeals to a wide cross section of visitors, consistently meeting and often exceeding their expectations. Tickets, which include the ferry fare and admission to Duart Castle, are sold through the CalMac Tourshop in the Ferry Terminal in Oban where it is one of the most popular excursions on offer."

Gareth Williams, SCDI Highlands and Islands Manager, added: "Congratulations to Duart Castle. CalMac's award is fitting recognition for many years of dedication to a vision and to first class customer service. Duart Castle is an attraction which shows why we can still be very optimistic about tourism in the

Highlands and Islands, even in these challenging economic times."

Duart Castle stands proudly on a cliff top overlooking the Sound of Mull and enjoys one of the most spectacular and unique positions on the west coast of Scotland. Visitors to Duart can explore the history of the castle and the Clan Maclean. The oldest lived in castle on the island offers lots to see including prisoners in the dungeons, the magnificent Great Hall, museum exhibits, and spectacular views from

the battlements. The tea room, converted from the old cattle byres, is a highly attractive and unusual coffee stop. It is renowned for its traditionally Scottish and cosy atmosphere and unforgettable home baked cakes.

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart Castle said: "We are delighted to win this fantastic award. We work as a team at Duart and my thanks go to everyone who works there as without their commitment and belief I would not be receiving this award. We look

forward to continuing to provide every visitor with a first class, memorable experience."

Sir Lachlan Maclean dedicated the award to his late wife, Lady Mary, whose vision, enthusiasm and help has contributed so much to the success of Duart.



James Smith, Chairman of Shell UK,
presenting Sir Lachlan with the Caledonian MacBrayne Award
for Excellence in Tourism



The Heritage Trust ~ (Continued)

into the project. The book has been delayed because of issues of royalties, but this has now been resolved.

There are also two projects overseas that have been planned for this year. The first is a memorial plaque at Sydney University in memory of Doctor Archibald Laing McLean who in his short life was Medical Officer on an Australian expedition to Antarctica. He then served with both British and Australian forces in France in the 1st World War and was awarded the Military Cross for Gallantry. Brian Maclean, a Trustee, has carried out a lot of research and made this project happen.

The Heritage Trust's other overseas initiative is to help fund a symposium at St Francis Xavier University in Canada which will look at Alexander Maclean Sinclair's influences and legacy. He wrote an important history of the Clan as well as teaching at the University for many years. The Trustees see this as an important initiative and one that we have not done before. I look forward to attending the Symposium in May.

It is very important to all of us who are involved with the Heritage Trust that anyone who has ideas about future projects feed them into the system. I would particularly like to thank the Trustees for all their support and hard work over the last twelve months.

CLAN MACLEAN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Ian MacLean ~ President

Duncan MacLean was elected President of CMIA at the last Gathering in June 2007. Unfortunately due to health concerns he decided to step down as President after only serving one full year. He emailed me as Vice President, and Acting President, and said '....after talking it over with Elizabeth we think it is best for CMIA, if I step down as president and decline your nomination for re-election.' Duncan was kind enough to nominate me for the Presidency, (as did Alasdair White). I accepted the nomination, and was duly elected. Peter MacLean of the Western Australian Association was nominated and elected as Vice President.

Our online AGM made some changes in the CMIA constitution. Council details can be seen at <www.macleans.org>. CMIA as you may know is a confederation of Maclean Associations, both terrestrial and web based. Our objectives are: Allegiance to the Chief of the Clan Maclean and loyalty to the Clan Maclean; Promotion of the Clan and its heritage, for today and for future generations; and responsibility for the development of Clan Maclean Association(s) worldwide and for their mutual co-operation. Currently we are communicating with two groups of Macleans, in South Africa, and Chile, who may be interested in forming new associations.



New President of the CMIA, Ian MacLean of Nova Scotia at Torloisk during the 2007 Gathering of the Clan.

The White Report was an important discussion item. This report was the result of the Chief expressing his wish that our associations could attract and retain more members, particularly younger members. The group was formed to review the current situations(s) and to make recommendations that might help us reach this objective. The group was chaired by Alasdair White (MacleansNet), and included Ephraim McLean (USA), Rhona McLean (New Zealand), and Vanora Rankine (Scotland). The report was submitted to Sir Lachlan, who in turn asked for comments from CMIA. Thanks go to Alasdair and his committee for a thoughtful and thought provoking report. The report has already sparked interest in various associations trying new and different approaches.

Comments on the report, and various ideas as to what works, were received from virtually all of the associations. I summarized these submissions, and with the agreement of CMIA, have forwarded them to Sir Lachlan. One of the suggestions was that we seek out a graduate student who could perhaps do the 'homework' necessary for us to make well-informed decisions. She or he could prepare a questionnaire, which could help us establish what the facts are, compile the results for use by all of us, and make suggestions for future action. These comments, and this suggestion, has been passed on to Sir Lachlan.

In the coming year we will be reviewing the future form of the Battleaxe. Marcus and Donald, the current editors are interested in making some suggestions for possible changes, and getting our comments, and any ideas we have.

Many of you will know that 'Homecoming Scotland 2009' is taking place this year. It is a series of events taking place throughout 2009. Our Clan was invited to participate in 'The Gathering, 2009', a major event taking place in Edinburgh. Although our Clan has its own Gatherings every five years, we thought that we should have a clan tent at this event. We will be there! Clan Maclean Scotland will be heading up this initiative.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the Mull Highland Games in Tobermory, take place on July 23rd, just a few days before the Edinburgh Gathering. Our Chief is the hereditary Chieftain of these Games, and it is very much the 'Macleans' Games with our own Clan tent. A 'must' if you are coming to Scotland.

There is a meeting of Scottish officials, Chiefs, and representatives of Clan Associations in July, just before the Edinburgh Gathering this year. The topic (as I understand it) is 'what is the role of the Clans in the 21st century?' This may be recognition of the role that clans and clan associations have, and can have, in promoting Scottish culture and heritage. It promises to be interesting. Sir Lachlan and I will be attending. I believe our clan, our clan associations, our MacleansNet, and our Clan Maclean Heritage Trust, - are positive and proactive. We are very fortunate. We have Clan Gatherings at Duart Castle, the Maclean castle every five years, a very involved and approachable Chief, worldwide terrestrial associations, and a web association, so I think we are in relatively good shape to comment on the subject.

It has been a busy year, and productive year. If there are subjects, or ideas that association members would like to see CMIA discuss, please pass these on to your President, or contact me at <ianmacleans@seaside.ns.ca>



Notes From Scotland

Robin Maclean of Ardgour ~ President CMA

The much-hyped *Year of Homecoming* is upon us, and as we all contemplate the economic and financial ruin of the past six months it will be interesting to see how many people attend the main events in Edinburgh. At least those coming from the U.S. and Euro-zone will have the consolation that their visit will be 30% cheaper than it would have been last year as the pound heads for basket-case currency status.



Above: Going to the Ball in Venice. Below: The Mull Games. (clockwise) The march from Tobermory Harbour; A musical moment; Allan, George, Alex and Ann.

This was brought home to Fiona and me recently when we attended a Highland Ball (naturally) in Venice and marvelled at the eye-watering prices. The 400 people attending the Ball in Venice's last remaining private Palazzo were transported in a fleet of 80 gondolas. We broke the marble dance floor!



The Scottish Association Council has continued to meet in Glasgow roughly quarterly. At the September meeting last year Ronald stood down as Treasurer after ten diligent years producing lucid accounts on time. Thank you Ronald. Colonel Donald has taken on the role on a temporary basis, so we are once again looking for volunteers for the offices of Treasurer and Secretary. Will someone please step up to the plate for these roles? Thank you all for your generous response to our Appeal. This raised £1883 which will help sustain the Magazine and other Association running costs.

Council welcomed Eoghainn MacLean and Sara Bishop, née MacLean, and we have already benefited from their fresh thinking. Ian McLean, our new webmaster, was co-opted to Council to facilitate direct liaison, and is doing a first-class job of keeping the

website up to date. The Associations are once more indebted to Marcus and Donald for producing and editing this fine publication.

The Gatherings followed their usual format, starting with the successful drinks party in the New Club in Edinburgh. One of the reasons for holding this function, which started about five years ago, was to try and increase awareness of the Association and the broader

clan in the Edinburgh area, in the hope of longer-term recruitment. Interestingly there is a strong representation of Macleans in the legal and financial services in the Edinburgh area, and we are hopeful that this Gathering will bear fruit in the longer term.

There was an excellent turnout of Macleans at the Mull Highland Games in Tobermory on a day which started humid and developed into blazing heat. Having the only Clan tent attracts many overseas visitors, not just Macleans, and as such heightens awareness of the importance of the Clan status on Mull. As Marcus and I made our inspection of the field a Dutch 'heavy' competitor noted our tumblers of amber fluid and remarked acerbically 'apple-juice I presume'.

The Inverness Highland Games followed the next day, and we had a desk in the large Clan tent.

The Annual Gathering dinner-dance was once again held in the Normandy Hotel near Glasgow Airport, preceded by the AGM. The evening was well attended and a great success, unfortunately marred by the discovery next morning that vandals had run amok in the car park, scratching paint-work with keys or coins. Discussion with police and Hotel management revealed that



the CCTV images were grainy and useless. The Normandy has promised a much upgraded system this year and hopefully this vandalism was a one-off.

We have looked at other city-centre venues which might be more attractive to younger parties but they inevitably command much higher prices. In any case we are committed to the

Normandy this year as functions are invariably booked twelve months in advance; so we had to put down a marker.

Scotland is at last emerging from a long winter, and though this may be a tall order let's look forward to a bright future.

London Letter

Nigel Alington ~ President

The Association held its annual meeting at the Caledonian Club in Halkin Street, London SW1, on 10 October 2008. Nigel Alington and Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross were re-elected as President and Vice President respectively. The meeting was followed by a dinner at the Club, attended by Elizabeth, Lady Maclean, as the guest of honour.

Nick Hart, who had been both Secretary and Treasurer, stood down from both offices. Although 'spending more time with the family' is too often a euphemism these days, in Nick's case it is sadly true that his family does require him to devote an increasing amount of time to caring for them, a role that Nick performs with great love, patience and good humour. Nick had been Secretary for four years and Treasurer for seven years, and we are most grateful to him for his contributions to the Association. For the time being, the President is acting as Treasurer and Mary Wilson has kindly taken on the role of Membership and Social Secretary.

A sad announcement earlier in the summer was that of the death of Patrick McLean at 88. Patrick had been the last surviving member of the Formation Committee of the London Branch (as it then was), which was established in 1953, and he later served as President of the Branch for many years. Many of us have fond memories of the dinners at the Royal Scottish Corporation in Covent Garden, for which Patrick 'borrowed' the chef from his local golf club! He was subsequently elected the first Honorary Vice President of the Association. It was with great pleasure therefore that we welcomed his son Paul to the dinner after this meeting.



On 13 February 2009 the Association held its annual Burns Supper, again at the Caledonian Club. Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the poet's birth, this was a hugely successful event, with 55 people attending.

The toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns was proposed by the President, celebrating the poet's achievements and legacy, not only in his poems and songs but also in his social thinking. Playing the topical game of finding links with President Obama, Nigel Alington noted that Abraham Lincoln was one of the new President's heroes, and Lincoln in turn was a huge admirer of Burns. The Vice President, Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross, gave the toast — and Valentine cards — to the lassies, divulging some interesting memories that previously he had probably shared only with his psychiatrist but which thankfully did not appear to come as too much of a surprise to his wife. Vivien McLean in her entertaining response included the topical and drily humorous poem by Pam Ayres called *On Comparing My Husband with Robbie Burns*.

The highlight of the evening was the performance of Tam O'Shanter by Richard O'Connor, who also delivered the address to the haggis. Richard acted Tam O'Shanter and his adventure in full costume and wig, complete with sound effects (storm,

pub conversation, galloping hooves etc.) and props (noose, sword, and a dead unchristened baby fresh from Hamleys), nobly supported by his faithful horse Maggie in the shape of Nicolas Maclean. For anyone interested, the incriminating evidence can be inspected via a link on the London page of the maclean.org website.

The evening ended with the traditional musical entertainment. Roddy McFaddyan, our piper, played a medley of tunes and the evening concluded with the singing of Scottish songs.



Left: Patrick McLean at the Caledonian Club in 1994.
Above: George Gillon (right) and his fellow Sheriff, Roger Gifford.
Below: George's Shrieval Badge of Office

We are delighted to report that George Gillon, a long-time member of the London Association, has been elected to serve as a Sheriff of the City of London. He took up his duties on 26 September 2008 and will serve for one year.

The office of Sheriff is of greater antiquity than any other in the City of London, dating back to the 7th century. Until the institution of the Mayoralty in 1189, Sheriffs or 'Shire Reeves' governed the City as the King's representatives, collected royal revenues and enforced royal justice.

Since 1385 when the Court of Common Council stipulated that every future Lord Mayor should 'have previously been Sheriff so that he may be tried as to his governance and bounty before he attains to the Estate of Mayor'. The shrieval year of an Aldermanic Sheriff is a sort of testing ground for a person who aspires one day to be elected Lord Mayor of London.

The livery of a Sheriff includes a Chain of Office and Badge which is unique to each incumbent and includes a coat of arms that he or she is allowed to design, with advice from the Royal College of Arms. As can be seen in the photograph, George has incorporated the Duart tower in his coat of arms. The renowned silversmith Grant Macdonald designed the badge, which also includes the coat of arms of the Caledonian Club, of which George is Vice President and where the Clan Maclean Association of London holds its dinners.



CMA France

Alan R.M. McLean ~ President

As I always say, Clan Maclean in France is small and will probably always be so as, unlike the other active clan association here, the Mackenzies, we only recruit Macleans and the sept's by name or descent. The Mackenzie Chief however, accepts anyone who will pledge allegiance to his clan. The result here is that the Mackenzie Association knows no bounds and, given the affinity in France for Scotland, has more members than us! They are delightful people and so on occasions we have joint functions with them and they have three pipers!

However, I am delighted to report that our numbers have been increased by the birth of Alexandre, Alastair and Brigitte Maclean's first child. His Christening took place in Paris and I gave the Clan's blessing at the reception which followed the church service



Above: The Christening of Alexandre. Left: Burns Supper in Normandy. Below: Housewarming in Brittany. Scottish and Breton musicians; Prawn and oyster boat; Robin and Fiona with Brigitte, Alastair and Alexandre.



In February 2008, Ted and Julia McLean organized a Burn's Supper in the Deux Tonneaux, a typical Norman auberge outside Pont

L'Eveque in Normandy. We had drinks and canapés in Ted's delightful manor house. Robin and Fiona of Ardgour travelled to France for the occasion and Ian and Anne Mclean travelled up from Paris, as did Elizabeth and I. About 30 local people enjoyed traditional Scottish fare for the first time and were fascinated to hear Robin's 'address to the haggis'. The next day, the Macleans enjoyed a stroll around Honfleur and lunch by the pretty harbour in warm sunshine.

In August, my wife Elizabeth and I gave a housewarming party at our new home in Brittany, which we have named 'Ker Gillean'. The Celtic theme was evidenced by the flying of the Breton



flag alongside the Saltaire from the house. Well known Breton musicians, Jean Baron (on the right in the photo) played the bombard, Christian Anneix played binioù, with Stuart Grant, a Scot who played the bagpipes in the presence of several Macleans.

These included Robin and Fiona of Ardgour, Nicolas of Pennycross, Capt. Marcus and his wife Brooke, Alastair, Brigitte and baby Alexandre Maclean, Andrew and Liz Maclean, Ted and Julia McLean, my eldest son Lawrence, partner Sylvie, his two children, and Elodie, the Clan's secretary and her family. The evening began with a champagne reception and seafood boat on the lawn followed by a sit down meal in a marquee for 80 guests.

The year ended with our traditional cocktail party in our flat in Paris attended by some 20 members including Ian and Anne McLean, Phillipe Morbach and grandson Alexandre, Elodie, her parents Jean-Denis and Rhona, brother Edouard

and fiancée Julie (who are getting married in Scotland this year). Also present were our latest recruits Didier and Jean-Michel Maclain, who descend from a Maclean in a Scottish regiment serving for France.

The Macleans of France send warmest greetings to all their many cousins worldwide.



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New South Wales

Les McLean ~ President

We extend our best Greetings to our worldwide Clan Maclean friends. The year of 2008 has been very rewarding due to a healthy increase in our bank balance, thanks to our recently secured sponsors Northern Highland Travel (Travel Agent) and St Kilda Retail (Sales of Scottish Wear etc). The additional income has enabled the committee to increase the quality of our quarterly newsletter which is now printed professionally by Snap Printing of Wetherill Park, who also subsidise the cost of supplying good quality paper and colour printing. The stories and general content in our newsletters has always been excellent due to the great input by Colin Sproule (Life Member), and the combination of great stories, bright colour and glossy paper has resulted in many congratulatory comments from our general membership. In past years the previous



committee relied on income from raffles to maintain the bank balance, and therefore it is pleasing that the sponsorship income has reduced the workload of our very important voluntary committee members.

Our Clan members are always looking for ways to encourage existing members to get together as a group to meet and enjoy each other's company. The membership in Australia is spread far and wide and therefore group opportunities are limited. We have however decided to utilise the facilities of our sponsor, Northern Highland Travel, to select trips which will be advertised in our newsletter so that members and their friends can consider travelling as a group on one of these tours. Our first tour selected will be of eighteen days duration with the highlight of the tour being Lawn Hill National Park in the Gulf of Carpentaria area in outback Queensland's crocodile country. The return trip will head east to the Great Barrier Reef



on the Queensland coast where we will spend two days on the beautiful Daydream Island Resort before returning to Sydney.

Our committee members are to be congratulated for their contributions during 2008. Due to other priorities however, Colin Sproule has decided to reduce his work load, and Norma McLean

was elected as Newsletter Editor at the February 2009 General Meeting of the Clan (Congratulations Norma). Colin Sproule has been a tireless contributor to the Clan and still remains on the committee where he will continue to gather and submit great stories. Every successful business has a leader who knows what it takes to encourage and motivate people to obtain success and Colin Sproule has those qualities. Colin has accumulated a vast knowledge of the historical background of the relevant Clans and he has displayed the leadership skills over many years that have greatly benefited Clan Maclean in NSW. Thank you Colin and we look forward to your continuing input on the committee.



Dianna McLean (Treasurer) was elected Membership Officer at the February 2009 General Meeting of the Clan, and although this position was previously carried out by the Secretary, it was considered by the committee to be a move that could ultimately benefit the members.

During the past 12 months Clan Maclean in NSW has been represented at up to twelve Gatherings and other functions in Sydney and in Country areas of NSW in order to promote the Clan and encourage new memberships. Clan Maclean has continued its association with the Scottish House Australian Cultural and Information Centre Inc, whereby we share booth accommodation at the various Gatherings. This arrangement has been extremely successful for both parties, with our customers benefiting from the greater range of available information. We also save money by sharing the fees for on-site liability insurance.



Immediately above: Colin Sproule, Les McLean and piper Robert McLean preparing to march at Aunty Molly's. Toni McLean, aka Aunty Molly singing *Donald Whaur's Yer Troosers*. Left & top: Acquiring the travel bug! Brolgas, Lawn Hill National Park, and a Queensland train.

'Highlands & The Haggis' at Aunty Molly's

Donald MacLean

On 8th of May last, a generous contingent of Macleans made their way to Morriset, and marched around the block before lunch and an afternoon of comedy and singalong at the hands of Toni McLean, aka Aunty Molly. A serving of haggis and a rollicking good time was had by all. I'd certainly go again!

New Zealand

Ian McLean ~ President

Greetings from New Zealand to our fellow Associations worldwide. One morning early in April I saw a news item on TV featuring Sean Connery and his wife hosting a fashion show in New York. It promoted the use of tartan clothing in order to focus attention on Scottish culture. It was not entirely serious but the idea was almost exactly what we have been endeavouring to achieve with our 'Tartan in the Park' competition, which was held this year at both the Waipu and the Paeroa Highland Games and proved to be very popular. We have high hopes that it will continue to grow at both these venues, and I thought "Oh for a sponsor like Sean Connery!" That would guarantee more entries than we could deal with.

Some of you who went to the gathering in Mull in 2007 may recall my wife Katrine taking photographs of people in tartan garments for publicity for our first 'Tartan in the Park'. She still has these photographs and would be happy to send them on to those of you who remember posing for her. Just send an email to her at <kayzee@xtra.co.nz>.

Our other activities this past year included our annual dinner at Waipu, and parading our banner behind the local pipe band at the Tartan day parade. We were the only clan to turn up but we hope to see more this year. We had also suggested a Kirkin' o' the Tartan at the local church which proved to be popular, so the Minister and Kirk Session there have decided to make it an annual event. The Minister's sermon was extremely good. The Clan Gunn was the

Our Association did not have anything arranged for St Andrews night, but I had persuaded my local Returned Services club to put on a function in honour of the day. I offered to do the haggis ceremony and our clan piper provided most of the entertainment accompanied by his sister on the drums, and later by a mini band including his mother and other friends from the local pipe band. They had earlier been leading the local Christmas parade and stayed on to attend the St Andrew's dinner. The club has vowed

to make this also an annual event so it will be a combined effort between them and the Association in future. One way or another, I think we are spreading some influence.

We have been involved in several Burn's celebrations and overall our Clan Maclean Association of New Zealand is in great heart. We would welcome contact with, or visits from our overseas cousins.

Finally, you can read about *A Boat of Our Ain*, the collection of articles originally written for our Clan Newsletter by our esteemed Life Member Mervyn McLean in the Book Reviews on page 11 of this magazine.

We wish you well in 2009!

Newsletter Editor, and Games compere, Noel Robinson
interviewing Alec Calderwood at the Paeroa Games.

left: The Tartan in the Park Competition - an initiative of the Clan Maclean Association of New Zealand.



Tartan in the Park



only other clan represented by a banner but when the Minister called a roll-call of the clans most members of the congregation replied by declaring their clan or showing their tartan. This year Tartan Day is turning into Tartan week and plans are well under way with the co-operation of the Waipu Caledonian Society and local business. Some of our committee members represented the clan at the Te Kuiti tartan day which they said was extremely well received.

Our annual picnic at Shakespear Park was poorly attended. Maybe New Zealanders have too many opportunities for picnics during the Summer. The day turned out lovely and warm and those of us who did turn up enjoyed ourselves.

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CLAN MACLEAN ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA INC.

Gordon McLean ~ President

I am presenting my first report as President of Clan Maclean Association in Australia, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Graeme Gartside for his leadership and guidance during his time as President of the Association, and his many years of involvement as Clan Councilor. Our Clan Association has many talented and gifted individuals among its members, and their contributions to the operation and running of this diverse organisation are greatly appreciated, both here in Australia, and Internationally.

I look forward to meeting the many challenges that may emerge, as the Association moves forward and into the technological age. It is worth mentioning that over 50% of our members are now contactable by email. The Clan MacLean Associations around the world are in regular contact with each other by email, and via the Clan Maclean website <www.macleans.org> Clan members can keep up-to-date with the many happenings at home and overseas. There is even a page for Australian members and the CMAA council.

Congratulations to Ms Kirralee McLean, the Young Achiever and recipient of the Ross Roper Award for Excellence, presented at the AGM in Halls Gap last November. Kirralee

was rewarded for her achievements in the Performing Arts. She has studied Dance for ten years and did her final exam to become a Teacher of Jazz Dance in December 2008.



She was an all-rounder at school, and was subsequently awarded a Commonwealth assisted place at Deakin University to study Nursing. She has just completed her first year of studies, and hopes to specialise in Paediatrics one day.

The Clan Chief's Birthday Banquet and Church service is held in May each year. This year the Chief's Banquet, will be at James Squire's Brewhouse in Melbourne's beautiful new Docklands precinct, with its magnificent views of the city and surrounds.



Above: Past President of the Association, Graham Gartside, with new President Gordon McLean. Left: Kirralee McLean with her Award. Centre: Members at the Dinner and AGM.



The Church service will be on Sunday 17 May, at Scots Church, on the corner of Collins and Russell Streets, in Melbourne. The service on this day is dedicated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service; a representative group of MacLeans will be attending. The AGM and Dinner are held in November. MacLean visitors to Melbourne who would like to attend our events are welcome to contact <clanmacleans.aust@gmail.com> for further details, and a warm welcome to Melbourne.

The CMAA welcomes contributions and articles from all of its members and actively encourages full member participation at the regular twice yearly functions. The future growth of CMAA depends on encouraging younger members of the Association to play an active role in the cultural and family heritage of Clan MacLean.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation for the generous support I have received during my first term as President. I look forward to meeting all members of the Maclean Clan.

Western Australia

Kaye MacLean ~ Editor

Hearty and fraternal greetings to all Clansfolk from CMA Western Australia. We happily reflect on an active year of 'flying the Maclean flag' in our rather remote part of the world.

Our first social event of the year was a barbecue breakfast on the banks of the Perth's beautiful Swan River in March. This informal function provided us with the opportunity to reflect on the festive season and renew friendships, with a view to the year ahead! We often recall that several years ago, Colonel Donald and Vera happened to be in Perth at that time and joined us on a similar morning.

In May we participated with other clans in a Combined Clans picnic in Kings Park, a lovely piece of natural bush in the heart of Perth city, with views over the Swan River and the city. Of the clans in attendance, Clan Maclean was the best represented at the picnic and provided the main entertainment of the day when our Honorary Piper, Peter MacLean and his son Malcolm rendered medleys of popular and traditional tunes in a bagpipe duet.

We also gathered with the other clans late in June, for the annual 'Kirkin' of the Tartan' held at the Air Force estate in Bull Creek. They have a lovely wee chapel on the site, and the service this year, included Gaelic songs, and scriptures read in ancient Scots dialogue. Officiating was the local Uniting Church minister, Rev. Frances Hadfield, originally from Scotland. After prayers and the lighting of a candle in remembrance, members of the congregation were invited to light a miniature candle for someone close to them. A candle was lit in memory of Lady Mary.

Our main formal luncheon was held in August. We selected a date as close as possible to the Chief's birthday and proposed a toast to Sir Lachlan from one of his most remote outposts. The popular mini pipe band performance was again a feature; the pipe corps comprising two MacLeans and two Rankines. A fine display of Scottish country dancing and some tunes on the small pipes by Duncan Rankine contributed to a very happy occasion.

Our Annual General Meeting in November, was preceded by an informal shared luncheon in the gardens of our Treasurer, Lyn Brodribb. The meeting marked the completion of four years by Margo Henshaw (née Beeton) as our President. Margo was an active and inspiring President and her bright and energetic disposition enhanced our clan functions during her term of office. Margo also led a strong delegation from Western Australia to Mull in 2007, and she reflected fondly on this experience in her final report as President.

Peter MacLean accepted nomination as our new President, a role he has carried out on previous occasions. The Annual General Meeting also conveyed congratulations to Peter, who had recently been elected Vice President of Clan Maclean International Association.


Sadly our Annual General Meeting marked the end of Brian McLean's long term as our Editor. Brian, who became an octogenarian on 2 January 2009, has carried out this role with distinction since 1995. His quarterly *Clan News* was eagerly awaited by the members, as it not only provided an update on events and items of current interest, it also regularly enlightened

us on clan history. He will continue as a committee member and as the Chief's representative on the Heritage Trust.


Brian's wonderful contributions, in his many capacities, include the reactivation of the Clan Maclean Association in Western Australia in 1991. This was recognized when we conferred our inaugural Life Membership upon him. In a citation supporting Brian's nomination, Secretary Kaye MacLean, referred to his valuable and outstanding service over many years in reviving, fostering and promotion of clan interests.



Top: Brian McLean receives his Life Membership Certificate from Margo Henshaw. **Above:** At the AGM and Christmas Luncheon; Annie McCormick, Enid McLean, Joy Dench, Val McLean, Betty Leonard and Lyn Brodribb. Also Neil Henshaw, Alex Henshaw and Doreen Dunbar.



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Book Reviews

M*agic Bus: On The Hippie Trail From Istanbul To India*, by Rory MacLean, ISBN 978-0-141-01595-8, Penguin 2006. In USA, ISBN 978-0978843199, IG Publishing 2009.

This book surprised and delighted me as I had travelled that trail myself in the sixties. The combination of the title and the author's name caught the eye of my wife Jilly, herself a veteran of the 'unguided tour' back in the day.

And 'unguided' it was for many of the hundreds of thousands of intrepid travellers who wandered the dusty byways between such exotic destinations as Morocco and Istanbul, Isfahan, Goa, Bangkok and Kathmandu. Rory MacLean tells of the first coach services and safaris to the subcontinent, and the emergence in the early sixties of guidebooks such as *Across Asia On The Cheap*, and *Overland To India*. What propelled that generation onto the roads of Asia, MacLean says, was not minibuses and maps, but works of literature such as Jack Kerouac's restless *On The Road*, Orwell's *Down and Out in Paris and London*, Tom Wolfe's *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, Ginsberg's *Howl* and Herman Hesse's story of spiritual awakening, *Siddhartha*. For this was the generation whose parents 'survived the depression, came home from Normandy and Guam, [and] took shelter in materialism and suburbia'. They were demanding to know, as did novelist John Clellon Holmes, 'How are we to break out of this prison? How do we let the spirit prosper so that the blistered desert we are making of the world can flower again?'

It is not Tourism, but Travel that is said to broaden the mind, and in those heady days each traveller experienced his or her individual Outward Bound adventure. The daily cavalcade of new faces and challenging experiences in a kaleidoscope of foreign lands leading many to irrevocable and permanent personal transformation.

The author speaks early in the book of the importance of the Asia overland route — for over 1700 years the principal link between Europe and Asia, facilitating the passage of armies and ideas, of spices and faith — and he wants to know about these original independent travellers, the Beats, Hippies and Intrepids who adopted the trail in the 1960s, and to discover why this particular route became the journey of their age. Embarking on his own journey in the present day, he wants to find out how that decade of travel affected the people in the countries traversed.

MacLean's first stop is Istanbul, the western gateway for the Silk Road since the sixth century. Ersin Kalkan, a journalist, tells him, "We saw hippies as revolutionaries ... they travelled without money, rejected materialism". MacLean responds warily saying, "But most critics think they were naive and cultish ... many of them were stoned out of their heads". "But all of them had flowers in their hair, philosophical flowers," says Kalkan, "Their liberal

values were innocent ... and they spread in a soft way through Turkish society. Our women began to feel they had the freedom to act as they wished. Young villagers re-evaluated their culture because of hippies' love of native clothing. They showed that there was a way to finding peaceful solutions to problems."

Not everyone has such positive opinions. Laleh, an Iranian woman in Tabriz has just received bad news when, angry and bitter she turns to MacLean, "Who do you — in the west — turn to for moral authority?" she demands ... "To answer your questions and to know yourself?" MacLean chooses his words with care, "Mostly to ourselves", he says. "Hence your dislocation and fragmentation," she hisses at him, her mouth so close that he can feel her breath on his ear. "You lost your way, forgot your God and now belong nowhere. You wander alone in a spiritual desert. You are a cancer."

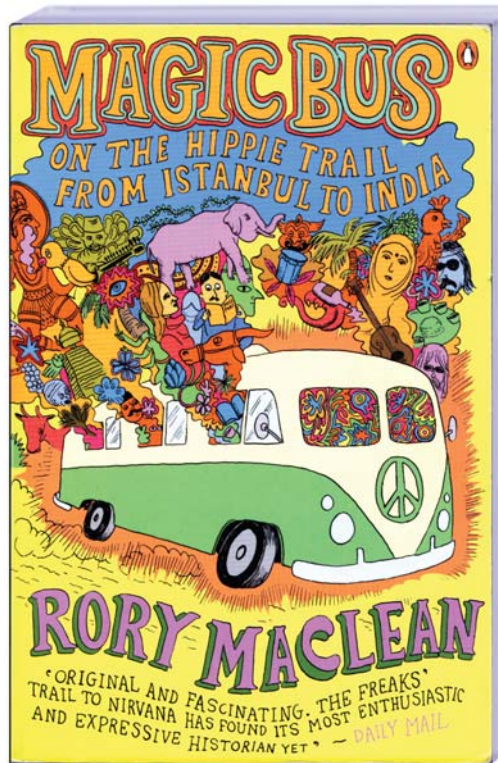
In a conversation with an American geologist in Afghanistan MacLean quotes the English travel writer Bruce Chatwin as saying that western hippies, believing in the Afghans' right to self-determination, have 'nudged Afghanistan along the road to ruin'. The geologist doesn't agree, saying that, "the dream of new political ideas changing the world has died", and that, "the only viable, enduring philosophy now is wealth creation.

Everyone wants to make money". Arun, an international tourism consultant MacLean meets on the train to Delhi, would probably concur. He is a champion of India's astonishing march to affluence, dismissive of the attainment of self knowledge, and asserts that India is too big to be changed by incomers' ideas.

My own memories of the overland trail are vivid, despite that old chestnut, 'If you can remember the sixties, you probably weren't there'. The

sights and smells, the warmth and generosity of the people I met, linger still. I was in Varanasi, on the banks of the Ganges, in 1969 when Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, and everybody was delighted. It was as if it was a co-creation of humanity rather than an achievement of the Americans. MacLean too experiences the sights and smells, and the warmth of the people, but he meets people who are experiencing their lives in the context of these times — concerned about money, and about Islam's conflict with the west. Except for some older folk, and one or two 'tie-dyed veterans who never made it home', there are few who know much about the intrepid travellers of the sixties.

While both the travellers, and those whose paths they crossed were surely changed by their individual experiences, I suspect the travellers brought more home, in the form of personal



Rory MacLean

Book Reviews ~ (Continued)

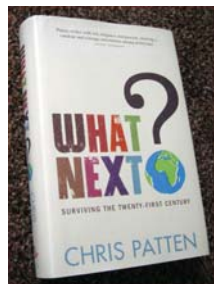
transformation, than they left behind. In the author's afterword he tells of the enthusiastic response he had when the book was first published. Veterans of the trail sent 'over 500 photographs, and enough material to write the book all over again'. MacLean, <www.rorymaclean.com>, created a separate website <www.magicbus.info> to share those stories — so many of the writers telling of travelling in the sixties and seventies, and how it had changed their outlooks and enriched their lives.

Far from being cardboard figures populating the traveller's narrative — MacLean's people are more like characters in a novel, and the author's skill is such that we come to care about what happens to them. Five other books preceded *Magic Bus*, they are: *Stalin's Nose* (1992), which tells the story of a journey from Berlin to Moscow in a Trabant; *The Oatmeal Ark* (1997) which explores stories of emigration from Scotland to Canada; *Under the Dragon* (1998) about meeting Nobel Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, and the beauty and terror of Burma; *Next Exit Magic Kingdom* (2000) which follows the two million British holiday-makers who travel to Florida every year; and *Falling for Icarus* (2004) in which Rory travels to Crete to hand build — and fly once — a flying machine, to come to terms with the death of his mother and to examine the relevance of Greek mythology to modern lives. I enjoyed reading *Magic Bus* so much that I am looking forward to reading them all.

Reviewed by Donald MacLean, Co-author of *Radiant Healing*, details at <www.radianthealing.com.au>.

WHAT NEXT? *Surviving the 21st century.* by Chris Patten. ISBN 978-0-713-99856-6. Published in UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand by Penguin.

Reviews of this new book by our clansman praise his style, "exquisitely written" says the Editor of the Financial Times. I will not demur, save to warn that milord's ideas tumble out so forcefully that paragraphs can be longer than pages. Which detracts not at all from the breadth and depth of this astonishing narrative. This is a man who has been everywhere that matters, has met everyone who is shaping the world we live in, and who fits it all together for us with utter common sense. As the F.T. says "... an eloquent and wise voice in a cacophonous world."



Reviewed by Donald H. MacLean. <www.the-life-of.me>

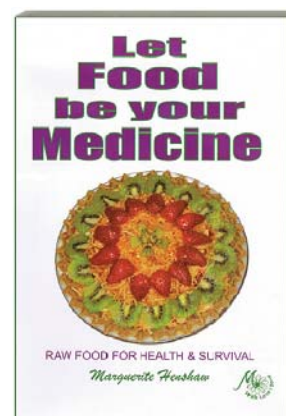
In *Let Food Be Your Medicine* Marguerite (Margo) Henshaw has written a well researched and passionate book about the need to eat raw food for optimum health. She had been an outstanding athlete until she had spinal surgery in 1968, and again in 1974. Her condition then progressed to the point where the medical profession could no longer offer her anything but a future in a wheelchair.

Her study of 'natural' healing methods convinced her that raw food could bring true and lasting health — and it has certainly done that for her. Since the turn of the century she has been running Raw Food workshops and she is still on her feet.

It is quite obvious that as soon as food is cooked the life force in it is killed. It is this life force that gives us energy and helps to detoxify the blood. Numerous studies have shown that our resistance to disease and infection is improved by eating a healthy regimen

of good, live-cell, chlorophyll-rich raw fruit and vegetables and home-grown sprouted cereals and legumes.

Margo's book goes beyond the many books about food that offer a diet excluding various food groups. *Let Food Be Your Medicine* includes some serious warnings about what not to eat, as well as a range of recipes with colourful illustrations. Find out how to avoid excitotoxins such as Aspartame and MSG, that are used to make food 'tasty' for us. Learn about the dangerous chemicals used to grow some foods, the hormones to speed growth and enhance size, the pesticides which make the food toxic to insects, and humans alike.



Let Food Be Your Medicine (AU\$29.95 + postage), is available from Marguerite Henshaw, PO Box 950, Subiaco WA, 6904, Australia. Tel. +61 (0)8 9201 2226 or email <margoangel@inet.net.au>.

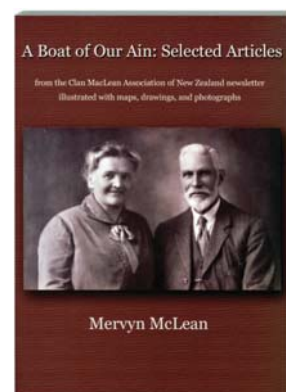
By chance, Margo is a Beaton by birth, and has sent this beautiful photograph of the Beaton Cross at Pennycross on the Island of Mull. More about the cross on page 3.

Reviewed by Brooke MacLean.

Greetings from New Zealand! writes Noel Robinson. "I am pleased to advise that in 2008 the Clan Maclean of New Zealand published a book called *A Boat of Our Ain*. This is a collection of articles originally published in our Clan Newsletter, *The Gillean Call*, that have been updated and published in book form. The author is our esteemed member Dr. Mervyn McLean, a retired Associate Professor from Auckland University who is a world authority in ethnomusicology (the study of ethnic music) specialising in New Zealand Maori and Polynesian music. We have received most complimentary comments from our Chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean concerning this publication."

The book has 176 pages and includes photos and maps. Central to the collection is a chapter about the McLeans of Grantully (pron. Grantly), a tiny place near Aberfeldy in Perthshire, Scotland, from whom the McLeans of Western Southland in New Zealand are descended. The ultimate origins of the Grantully McLeans are traced to Ardgour in the mid 1600s.

Some other chapters are 'The Tobermory Galleon', 'Dr. Johnson, Boswell and the McLeans in 1773', 'Mc and Mac in Scottish Surnames: A Question of Orthography', and 'Whisky and Water: The Whisky Dewars and their MacLean Predecessors'.



A Boat of Our Ain (NZ\$29.95 + postage), is available from Noel Robinson, PO Box 23642, Hunters Corner, Manukau, New Zealand. <noel.robinson@manukau.govt.nz>.

'Mzuribeads' Success Story

Jillian MacLean

Visitors to the 2007 Clan Gathering at Duart Castle may remember Kirstie MacLean's Mzuribeads stall in the exhibitor's tent. Kirstie's flourishing Ugandan bead jewellery business recently attracted the attention of radio DJ Heather Suttie, well known for her 'Say No To Plastic' campaign.

Kirstie's exhibit was Heather's favourite at the Charity Vintage Sale she hosted in Glasgow's Òran Mór in October 2008 to promote the Reduce, Re-use, Recycle message.



After a working holiday in Australia, Kirstie travelled to Uganda in 2006 to meet up with her brother Angus, and work as volunteers. Together they discovered a group of village women crafting exquisitely coloured beads from recycled magazines. The women make the beads by rolling triangular strips of paper tightly around a needle, and then varnishing them.

Back in Scotland, after a stint at university studying community education, Kirstie was inspired by the possibility of supporting these women to improve their life circumstances and meet their goals of self-determination. Her interest in community-building activities led her to establish Mzuribeads. Revisiting Uganda frequently and working alongside the women, Kirstie developed the business which now has 10 stockists in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The eco-friendly Mzuribeads products, which include purses, belts and beaded door curtains, as well as the many different jewellery items, are highly sought after at the major bead fairs in Britain.

Mzuribeads <<http://www.mzuribeads.com>> has recently been working on a new collection using brass, copper, paper and bamboo in partnership with Makere University in Kampala. They are also collaborating with the exceptional painter and Jeweller, Sanaa Gateja of Kwetu Africa. <<http://www.africanloxo.com/repert-artistes/ouganda/01>>



Above: Kirstie with her Ugandan partners.
Left: Kirstie from a Daily Record article by Laura Coventry, photo by Crawford Brown,

Cyclist Wins Olympic Silver

Wendy Houvenaghel, née McClean, of Northern Ireland, a member of the British Olympic Cycling Team, won the silver medal in the Women's Pursuit event at the velodrome, during the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Wendy who only took up cycling five years ago, gave up her career as a dentist in the Royal Air Force stationed in Cornwall to prepare for the Olympics.

Wendy joined the Royal Air Force as a dentist and attained the rank of Squadron Leader. She didn't do any sport at university, preferring to concentrate on her dental studies. But her husband, himself a keen cyclist, encouraged her after she had run the London marathon in 2002. Wendy said, "He thought I looked quite strong on the bike and I decided to go and do a time trial, and then after a few months I finished fourth at a



national championship. It was then that I decided to apply myself and see how far I could go."

Wendy was selected for the 2003 world championships in Canada. British cycling officials decided she had the fitness level of a potential Olympian. Wendy was inspired by the Olympic battles of Seb Coe and Steve Ovett, but it was watching Chris Hoy that really got her motivated. She said, "I thought it was an amazing achievement, and I decided to switch to the track".

Wendy was born in 1974 in the village of Upperlands, near Magherafelt, Co Derry, not far from her father's home village of Kilrea. She attended Rainey Endowed School in Magherafelt before leaving for University in Dundee, Scotland, where she met her husband, Ian Houvenaghel, who is English, but has a Dutch surname.

Lost in the Forth

Isabel Crawford

The strategic importance of the Rosyth naval dockyards in the Firth of Forth, on the East coast of Central Scotland made it an obvious target for enemy raids, and some of the earliest air raids on Britain took place here. A bombing raid in October 1939 was aimed at HMS Hood, and many magnetic and acoustic mines were dropped in the estuary in an attempt to close it to the many cruisers, destroyers and capital ships which came here for servicing and repair.

In May 1940 the Local Defence Volunteers, who were shortly to become the Home Guard, were formed. At the beginning of July 1940, special units of the LDV were formed to patrol the estuary, as was happening on other British waterways. Their job was to check water traffic and watch out for mines. They were issued with Navy uniforms and came under naval command. The patrol boats were private river craft, requisitioned by the Admiralty, fitted out for their purpose and each having a crew of eight plus the skipper.

One of these volunteers was Robert McLean, a fine young man, aged 30, who was a grocer. He lived in Falkirk, had been married for three years and had a daughter, aged 1yr and 10mths. Two of his hobbies were beekeeping and singing in a local amateur Operatic Society. He was an Ordinary Seaman R.N. on one of the first three patrol boats, H.M. Patrol Boat Mesme, a wooden motor yacht, which at one time had belonged to the Earl of Mar.



Seaman Robert McLean with daughter Isabel.
Below: the ill-fated HM Submarine Sunfish.



On 1st September 1940, about eight weeks after Robert had volunteered, the Mesme left Rosyth around 9 pm. Since he was a grocer, Robert was appointed cook and was in the galley at this time. Three other crew members were in the adjacent

saloon. One of these men, Able Seaman John Henderson, left to see to the engine. Robert took his seat. The officer and crew on deck saw some ripples on the surface of the water and were looking for a buoy, which they thought had caused them. Too late, they realised they were mistaken.

Also at 9 pm, H.M. Submarine Sunfish, captained by Commanding Officer, J.E. Slaughter, left Grangemouth dockyard following repairs, travelling on the surface, to Rosyth. Usually, information giving the times of surface movements of shipping were given to the river patrols. The Sunfish had left Grangemouth dock half an hour earlier than scheduled, as its berth was needed for another vessel. Unfortunately, the river patrol had not been advised of this change of plan. The ripples seen by the crew of the Mesme had been caused by the Sunfish, which at 9.23 pm struck the Mesme abeam, slicing it in half at the saloon. Robert and the other two men in the saloon were lost.

The true facts of the incident were never made public. It was reported as an accident, with mention of a rescue boat, which in fact was the submarine. It managed to pick up the survivors in the 19 minutes that it remained at the scene. The body of one of the lost crew was found the following day, but those of Robert and the third man were not recovered for almost two months, near Grangemouth.

The submarine Sunfish was transferred to the Soviet Navy in June 1944. In July 1944, while en route from Dundee to Murmansk, with a Russian Captain and crew and a few British liaison staff, it was bombed in error by an RAF Coastal Command Liberator off Norway, having failed to follow the correct recognition procedures. All crew and British liaison staff were lost.

Robert McLean was my Father. During my search for information about his loss, I was lucky to be in contact with Mr John Henderson, whose seat in the saloon of the Mesme was taken by my Father. It has been quite an experience for me to talk to the last person to see my Father alive and hear so much detail of the event and his recollections of their time on board the patrol boat. Mr Henderson, at the time of writing, is now 89yrs old.

There would be many McLeans lost during wars. This is the story of just one of them.
September 2008. ☞

Northern Ireland's first Olympic medal in 16 Years



Clan Gillean USA

Bob McLean ~ Vice President & Editor

The Clan Gillean USA 2008 season could easily be labeled as a season of change, and that description is not intended in a negative light. It is simply the way of The Macleans as we juggle many things all at once. The past year saw our multi-tasking clan well represented at 25 highland games events and festivals across the United States. Clan Gillean representatives earned top honors for 'Best Tent' or 'Top Clan' at five of these gatherings.



In the administrative arena, the Annual General Meeting for the association was convened at the November Salado Highland Games in Texas. This was a great place for an autumn meeting, offering fine fellowship and lovely Texas weather that did not disappoint us with afternoon temperatures approaching 80° F (26° C). Following the games, the festivities ended with a well attended awards banquet.

This theme of change extends to the formation of the association's executive committee. We were all sad to see Betsy McLean, Clan Gillean USA's long serving secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor, resign due to new employment responsibilities. We miss her faithful presence in these demanding roles but are thankful that she will still attend games and events and retain her position as Clan Convenor. Any doubt of her strength in these roles evaporates with the realization that three different clan members



were needed to fill her capable shoes. Mark Lane was elected treasurer at the AGM, Nancy Hendreske was appointed secretary, and Vice President Bob McLean now struggles along as editor of *The Pippings*. You never realize the difficulty of a job until you attempt to fill it yourself. Bob is currently searching for a new editor to tackle this particular responsibility.

On the technical front, our website <clangilleanusa.org> continues to make information and event photos available online to our membership, in order to keep them aware of clan events across the United States. Plans are in

the works to include a catalog of Clan Maclean logo items available for purchase. We are also in the process of converting our printed newsletter, *The Pippings*, to an online format. The printed version will still be available for members who prefer their news the old fashioned way, and the online option will give people a fast and friendly way to receive clan updates.

Finally, Clan Gillean has enjoyed some noted success in the world of Scottish dance. The recipient of our dancing scholarship, Miss Caitlin McLean, has made us all quite proud this year. We have always know that she is 'The Best,' and it now appears that others agree with our slightly biased assessment. This past season Caitlin won the trophy and Dancer of the Day



Above: Miss Caitlin McLean. Left: Clan Gillean USA tent at the Gatlinburg Highland Games (l-r) Meghan Tidwell Gay, Betsy McLean, Marla Baswell, Robin Roberts, Julie Lane. Young Clansman Matthew List lining up for the Alexander Virginia Parade. Below: Clanswoman of the Year award is presented to Ruth Kirmser by VP Bob McLean.

perpetual Trophy at So. MD. Highland Games; won the trophy at the Cincinnati Indoor Highland Dance Competition; was the 1st runner up at the New Hampshire Championship; and was a runner up at the Chicago Spring Fling Championship. She was also placed 2nd runner up at the Eastern Regional Championship and represented the Eastern Region at Nations in Denver where she won a medal. Over the past four years she also has won the Eastern Regional Championship and been 1st runner up twice. She won the trophy at the North American and the Chicago Spring Fling Championships, and was a runner up at the Queen Mary Championship.



In Scotland Caitlin qualified to dance in Worlds, receiving two silvers and a bronze at the qualifying championship. She won medals at Bute, World Pipe Band, Commonwealth, and was the first American to win a trophy at the British Open Championship. This year she hopes to return to Scotland to compete. Her teacher is Linda Reid Tarp of the

Reid School of Highland Dance.

All in all, it was a good year for Clan Gillean. We have experienced positive success amidst change despite the economic woes facing us as a nation. It just seems easier to weather life's storms when you are surrounded by family. Things can seem a little bit better when you have an arm around your shoulders or a hug around your neck. That's what family is about, and Clan Gillean is nothing if not family.

MacleanNet

Alasdair White ~ President

MacleanNet continues its steady growth, although somewhat more slowly in the last twelve months, but we have noticed that a greater number than before have 'dropped' their membership. This is based on the number of email addresses that have ceased to be active — many people may simply have changed email address and forgotten to tell us and there is nothing we can do about that! As of the middle of April, we have 1654 active members listed on our general membership communication list, and around 4000 listed in total.

In the spring of 2008 we experienced something that, according to the available research, affects most email lists at some time or another: one member's activities on the list were beginning to have a distinctly adverse affect and were upsetting a great many others. This matter, unfortunately, caused a large number of list members to stop posting and since the summer of last year the lists have seen very little activity with only a few posts per month. Although the lists have become somewhat inactive, the members have not, and they can be found on Facebook and other social networking sites including our own 'Maclean Community' site. We are currently re-thinking the activity of the lists with a view to re-launching them.

Our DNA project has also been going well with growing numbers taking the tests and links have been made between cousins in different parts of the world. All of which supports our genealogy work which continues to be a mainstay of the website and the MacleanNet offering.

Our members have had an exciting year, although for some the excitement was rather over the top. We had a worrying time during the fires in southern Australia, and keeping in touch with those affected was not always that easy. We also heard from Moscow where a family descended from a Maclean has lived for quite a number of generations, and also from South America where there is a thriving community of Macleans. The history of how and why these families are where they are is still unravelling.

MacleanNet continues its full support of the Clan and its Associations by maintaining the website <www.macleannet.org> and we have been slowly but surely bringing it up to date and refining it based on usage. This is an ongoing activity and some

sections are in need of someone to take them in hand while others are actively maintained by collaboration between the Associations and our webmaster. If any one would like to take responsibility for any of the sections on the website, then please let me know <alasdair@macleannet.org>. We note with interest that the number of websites associated with the clan is growing and we will be providing appropriate links to all the ones that provide quality material for their readers.



2009

Clan Maclean Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Clan Maclean Association will be held in the Normandy Hotel, by Glasgow Airport, at **4 pm** on **Saturday 7th November 2009**. Members of Clan Maclean Associations worldwide are very welcome to attend.

Clan Maclean Scottish Gathering

The Annual Gathering will be held in the Normandy Hotel, by Glasgow Airport, on **Saturday 7th November 2009**. Tickets will cost **£35** per adult and **£17.50** each for children aged 10 to 15 years inclusive.

The Normandy Hotel has offered the Clan accommodation at **£30** per person bed & breakfast (two sharing a room). The hotel is very accessible by road (M8), rail (Paisley, Gilmour Street) or air (Glasgow).

Applications for tickets should be sent to:

Lt. Col. Donald MacLean, 2 Fullerton Drive, Seamill, Ayrshire KA23 9HT, UK. Tel: +44(0) 1294 823240



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Enquiries/Bookings now being taken for the 2012 Gathering on Mull.

Paul lives in Perth, Scotland.

paul@mcleanscotland.com

Atlantic (Canada)

Murray MacLean ~ President

It is hard to believe that it is February 2009 already. Clan Maclean Atlantic (Canada) has had another successful year, winning the 2008 Halifax Highland Games Clan Tent of the Year Award.

Perhaps the year's highlight was the awarding of 'Scot of the Year', The Nova Scotia Federation of Scottish Clans' highest honour, to one of our founding members, Jim MacLean. This award is bestowed upon a special individual who lives the values of the Scottish Community, or whose hard work and dedication to promoting Nova Scotia Scottish heritage are without equal. The event was held on Sunday November 16 2008, at a (slightly early) St. Andrews Day Brunch which was held at the community centre in St. Andrews, Nova Scotia. Originally planned primarily as a fundraising event for the Clan Maclean cairn for Cairn Park in Antigonish, it also became a celebration of one of our own.

Tom Wallace, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Scottish Clans, was on hand to present the well-deserved Scot of the Year Award to James K. (Jim Senior) MacLean of Pictou. Involved in 'all things Scots' for more than 25 years, Jim has been an initiator of Scottish associations and worked on many events, protecting and promoting Scottish heritage in Atlantic Canada.

One of the Founding Members of Clan Maclean Atlantic (Canada), for which he received an award from our Clan Chief Sir Lachlan Maclean, Jim has served two terms as President of our association (from 1981–1983, and from 1994–1996). Instrumental in the spreading of the Association from Nova Scotia into New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, Jim also

arranged and hosted events in the Pictou area during the Chief's visit in 2003.

Jim has also been heavily involved in the initiation and continued success of both the Nova Scotia Federation of Scottish Clans and the replica of the ship Hector in Pictou. Jim has also been an active participant in Pictou's curling scene, as a participant, volunteer, executive member and teacher, and also worked with the Heatherbelles, an all girl pipe band.

As written in the nomination letter, "Jim has countless friends among those Nova Scotians who are interested in things Scots. Jim is an institution in our Association, and we will, no doubt appreciate his sense of humour and willingness to help, for many years to come."

Clan Maclean Atlantic (Canada) echoes the congratulations sent by Sir Lachlan, Chief of the Clan Maclean, to our beloved 'Jim Senior'. It is an honour well-deserved, and we are certainly blessed to have you as one of our own.

Committees are in place and plans are underway for our Thirty Year Anniversary in 2009. We will have more on this in next years Battleaxe so till then, Clan Maclean Atlantic wishes fellow Maclean Clans all the best for 2009.

Centre from top: James K. MacLean receiving Scot of the Year trophy from Tom Wallace, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Scottish Clans; 'Jim Senior' with his trophy; James K. MacLean, Sr. with his son James MacLean.

Below, left: George MacLean, Vice President for Nova Scotia, accepting the 2008 Halifax HigZ es Clan Tent of the Year Award on behalf of Clan Maclean, **and right:** the prizewinning tent.



California / Nevada

Ed McLean ~ President

Although the year has been a quiet one for the California branch of the Clan Maclean, it celebrated its 15th year as an independent association in October 2008. We continue to enjoy our heritage and to host tents all over the state of California. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



At the San Francisco Scottish Games held in Pleasanton, California in September. Past Presidents Duncan MacLean (left) and Ed McLean were presented Member of the Year Awards by current president Sandra MacLean. Rod McLean, also received an award but was unable to attend.



Pacific Northwest USA

Jim McClean ~ President

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest — a land of cheese, trees and ocean breeze — and an abundant rain together with almost enough snow to satisfy *all* skiers, snow boarders and them people who just want to have fun in that cold wet white stuff. Our 2008 year was quite busy with many events and we hope to continue the same pattern in 2009.

We started 2008 in March with the Washington Tartan Day, Puyallup WA, a good indoor venue but it was poorly attended by the public. However it was the first event and Macleans did come out of their 'winter shells'. The next day was our Washington Maclean Tea. We had several new members attend this year, and we shared the stories and pictures of the 2007 Gathering.



June found the Maclean tent at the Bellingham Highland games in Ferndale WA, just 20 miles from BC Canada. Our Canadian members came down and rallied around the tent, and literally helped tread water as the rains all but shut us down. But somehow the Pacific Northwest Maclean mentality lives in Goretex coats and many show up to see all the bands, especially the world champion Simon Fraser Pipe Band of BC.

Mid June found the Maclean Tent in Graham WA for the Tacoma Highland Games, a day of warm, sunny and dry weather — spring arrived late! Board member Ken Piercy backs up in the tent and clan Parade. Kaelyne McClean Mowell and husband are the athletic organizers and are certified SAAA (Scottish American Athletic Association) Judges.

Moving into July, we raised our tent at the Skagit Valley Highland Games in Mt. Vernon, Washington. Members who live in this area, John Maclean and Marilyn MacLean (not related) are on the games committee and spend several days setting up and working hard during the game day. This is a significant and growing event in the Northwest, and close enough for the Canadians to come down.

Coming home to Oregon also in July, the Portland Highland Games, Pat and Jim McClean are on the committees for putting on the games. Kaelyne and Carl Mowell are the Athletic games co-chairs. They get the top ten Pro athletics in America to come to Portland and it always draws a big crowd. A world record stone toss occurred in 2008!

After Portland we traveled to the largest games in the Pacific Northwest in Enumclaw, WA. This is our Clan Home games, since we are chartered in the state of Washington. We had a great turn out and many marched in the parade. This is where most of our members come together to share a good time, and many had 2007 Gathering stories to tell. These games

have great entertainment events, with many dancers and pipe bands. On dust on opening night on Friday they hold a flaming Saltire ceremony and call a Gathering of the clans.

One of our members, Gordon Mclean from Oregon, represented the Macleans by putting up the tent at the Spokane, WA games. His son lives there and he gets free room and board.

This year the Oregon High Desert games in August moved from Bend to Madras, a better venue than in the past. We were there, up front and personal with a premier location, but a dismal attendance. This time of year, being in the High Desert. I'm really wishing I'm back in the rain at Bellingham. During the same weekend as High Desert, we have members putting a tent up in the center of Whidbey Island, WA . where the winds blow strong across the narrow portion of the Island.



Macleans of the Pacific Northwest celebrate their Clan Heritage at the many Highland Gatherings held in 2008.





Pacific Northwest USA ~ (Continued)

It is a modest local games, vendor supported, but great fun and entertainment for all involved. As the summer really heats up we journey to Winston, Oregon for unique games with 'edged weapons' demonstrations. This is where the Macleans host dinner at the local Mexican restaurant. All the clan tent workers (Clan tent Cavaliers) gather at the end of the first day and march to the Mexican restaurant in kilts! Afterwards we meet in the parking lot and toast a wee dram and sing the Clan tent Cavalier song.

Our last games are in southern Washington in Kelso, named after Kelso, Scotland. The high school teams are called the Highlanders! This is held in September and we have members Caren Black and Chris Paddon, from Astoria on the coast of Oregon, come and work these games.

Our last event of the year before we retreat indoors for the rainy season, was the clan picnic in Auburn WA. We do have a covered shelter, because we never know about the weather. We have various sizes of cabers, stones and weights, for the children, young people and our adult members who think they are athletes, to throw! And of course pot luck food and hot dogs.

This association had a very good 2008. We did not make our membership goal of 200, but we had fun trying. We are well pleased at the number of our members who sent out the word and our newsletter here and there to relatives, which resulted in members far and wide. We thank everyone for their support.

If any of you find yourself in our little corner of the world, (Washington, Oregon) please stop by and say, "Aye, Thank god I'm a Maclean" <patjimcclean@netscape>.





Clan Maclean International Association

COUNCIL as at JUNE 2007

Chief

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern, Bt., CVO, DL.
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Chieftains

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